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THE promoting useful Knowledge in general, and such branches thereof in particular, as may be more immediately serviceable to the British Colonies, being the express purpose for which the AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY was instituted ; the Publication of such curious and useful Papers, as may, from time to time, be communicated to them, becomes, of course, one material part of their design.

As soon, therefore, as the Society judged that they had received a sufficient Number of Communications for a Volume, they appointed a Committee, to assist the Secretaries, in selecting out of them such as might be most proper for the public view. And for their direction in the execution of this trust, the two following Rules were given, viz.

First, “ THAT the grounds of the Committee’s choice of Papers for the Press, should
“ always be, the importance or singularity of
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“ the subjects, or the advantageous manner of
“ treating them, without pretending to answer,
“ or to make the Society answerable, for the
“ certainty of the facts, or propriety of the
“ reasonings, contained in the several Papers
“ so published, which must still rest on the
“ credit or judgment of their respective
“ Authors.

Secondly, “ THAT neither the Society,
“ nor the Committee of the Preſs, do ever
“ give their opinion as a body, upon any
“ paper they may publish, or upon any sub-
“ ject of Art or Nature that comes before
“ them.”

THESE Rules were adopted from the Rules of that illustrious Body the ROYAL SOCIETY of London, whose example the AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY think it their honor to follow, in their endeavours for enlarging the Sphere of Knowledge and useful Arts. And though, in Countries where the Arts and all useful Improvements have arrived almost at their maturity, the following WORK may scarce be considered as a mite thrown into the common treasury ; yet here, where they are but in their infancy, it may be received as some accession to our smaller Stock.